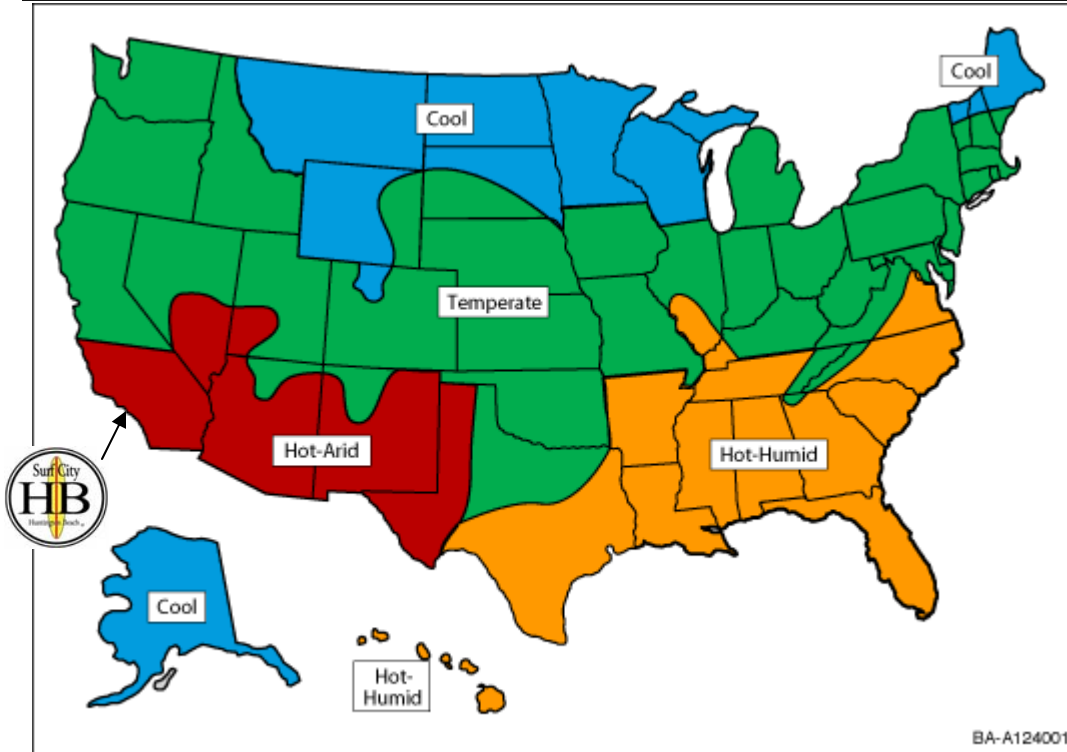




Landscaping

City of Huntington Beach Green Building Tips



A well-designed landscape not only can add beauty to your home but it also can reduce your heating and cooling costs. On average, landscaping for energy efficiency provides enough energy savings to return an initial investment in less than eight years. We recommend using as many California-native plants in your landscaping as possible. These plants have evolved to live in the local climate, soil types, and animals. This long process offers several gardening advantages:

- **Saving Water**
Once established, many native plants require minimal irrigation beyond normal rainfall.
- **Low Maintenance**
Because they are already adapted to the local environment, native plants require less water, little or no fertilizer, little to no pesticides, less pruning and, thus, less of your time.
- **Freedom from Pesticides**
Native plants develop their own defenses against local pests and diseases. Reducing pesticide use helps keep garden toxins out of our creeks and watersheds.
- **Wildlife Viewing**
Native plants, birds, butterflies, and other interesting critters are made for each other. Research shows that native wildlife prefer native plants.

According to the US Department of Energy, Huntington Beach is located in the "Hot-Arid" climate sector of the United States. This means that your home landscaping should be aimed at providing shade to cool roofs, walls, and windows; allowing summer winds to access naturally-cooled homes; blocking or deflecting winds away from air-conditioned homes; and conserving water.

Shading and evapotranspiration (the process by which a plant actively moves and re-

leases water vapor) from trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 9° F (5° C). Because cool air settles near the ground, air temperatures directly under trees can be as much as 25° F (14° C) cooler than air temperatures above nearby blacktop.

SHADE

Information derived from US Department of Energy
<http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/>
<http://www.energystar.gov>



Products bearing the Energy Star logo have been certified as meeting stringent energy efficiency guidelines established by the US Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency.



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